

drugs. But what company will volunteer to produce drugs that politicians demand free of charge? Job-seeking Brazilians who would benefit from foreign investment in biotech will have to move to India. Brazil will sink ever lower into underdevelopment. Maybe soon it will legitimately qualify for the same charity as poverty-stricken sub-Saharan Africa.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 29, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose cuts for the Community Development Block Grant program. CDBG has served communities for over 30 years as a resource to help cities, counties, Native American communities and states meet their community development, affordable housing and economic development needs.

The proposed cuts would hurt my district's economically disadvantaged residents, who are the main beneficiaries of CDBG funded services. CDBG has helped to revitalize these neighborhoods. In my district, CDBG funds have been used for social service programs such as afterschool recreational activities for at-risk youth, health care treatment, senior services, and job training. Additionally, cities use the funds for capital improvement projects, including the development and rehabilitation of community centers, homeless shelters, parks, and neighborhood improvements, such as lead paint removal and traffic safety improvements. Also, CDBG funded services improve the quality of life and infrastructure of Native American communities.

The CDBG program allows communities to identify their own local needs and strategies to address them. I strongly believe that it is one of the most effective federal programs. It not only helps communities, but strengthens our nation's economy as a whole.

The need for these funds has never been greater as rising housing prices complicate efforts to expand affordable housing and stimulate economic development. Without the proper funding for CDBG, we risk undermining the social and economic well-being of our communities. I urge my colleagues to vote for sufficient funding for community development that helps the underserved neighborhoods throughout the country.

CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA CITY OF LAUDERHILL FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL CIVIC LEAGUE'S "ALL-AMERICA CITY" AWARD

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the City of Lauderhill for its recent honor as one of the National Civic League's ten All-America Cities for the year of 2005. This award, which is presented every year to the ten cities that most represent civic excellence, is a true tribute to the great residents of the City of Lauderhill and the State of Florida. I am proud to stand before this body and honor this great Florida city, which I am so privileged to represent.

Each year, the National Civic League crowns its winners of the coveted All-America Cities Award—the Nation's longest running and most prestigious civic recognition program. The National Civic League is a leading proponent of citizen democracy. Founded in 1894 by government reformers such as Theodore Roosevelt, the National Civic League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to building community and promoting political reform at the local level.

The All-America City award recognizes American cities for their civic excellence. The award honors communities, such as the City of Lauderhill, in which citizens, government, businesses and nonprofit organizations demonstrate successful resolution of critical community issues. Since 1949, more than 4,000 communities have competed and only 500 have been designated All-America Cities. The cities honored by the National Civic League highlight the successes of communities across America and serve as examples of how to work together to overcome obstacles and achieve tangible results.

In order to be named an All-America City, finalists must present three innovative community programs to a nine-person jury. These presentations addressed a wide range of social and community issues, including youth, education, poverty, affordable housing, race relations, and others.

The All-America City award has been called "a Nobel prize for constructive citizenship."

Mr. Speaker, no city exemplifies the idea of constructive citizenship more than the City of Lauderhill. Now in its fourth decade of progress, Lauderhill is meeting the challenges of the future through planned development with a focus on quality of life.

The City of Lauderhill was first incorporated in 1959 with approximately 100 residents. Lauderhill grew by nearly 30,000 residents between 1970 and 1980 and now encompasses over seven square miles with a population of over 50,000 people. The business community is as diverse as its residents, with citizens from virtually every Caribbean nation from Haiti to Jamaica and every place in between. Lauderhill recognizes that its residents and business owners are key assets of the community. We are blessed to have informed, active and concerned members working for the betterment of the City and its residents.

The City of Lauderhill is well known for its innovative efforts to improve the quality of life,

including health and social services programs, recreational activities and events for the appreciation of culture and the arts. Lauderhill puts a premium on improving human and social services through strategic planning, expanding existing resources and creative financing techniques.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Lauderhill, Florida have brought credit and honor not only to themselves and their city but also to the people and State of Florida. The City of Lauderhill is worthy of the praises of the people of Florida as well as the Members of the House of Representatives. It is a city truly worthy of emulation and worthy of the title All-America City.

THE CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to reaffirm that Federal employees are protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and to repudiate any assertion to the contrary.

At a time when our Federal employees are working tirelessly on behalf of the Nation, we should be doing our utmost to ensure that all are protected against discrimination. Unfortunately, the Bush administration appears to have abandoned a long-standing, bipartisan interpretation of the law which protects Federal employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation. I hope that Congress will act quickly to pass this legislation.

Until recently, the Bush administration followed a long-standing policy prohibiting job discrimination against gay Federal employees. However, Special Counsel Scott Bloch, head of the Office of Special Counsel, responsible for investigating workplace discrimination, testified that Federal workers are not protected against discrimination based on sexual orientation. This statement diverges from years of Federal policy that safeguards gay and lesbian employees.

The legislation being introduced today, the Clarification of Federal Employment Protection Act, would make clear the protection afforded by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, by explicitly making discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation a prohibited personnel practice under the act.

I commend my colleagues—Representatives CHRIS SHAYS, DANNY DAVIS, MARK FOLEY, BARNEY FRANK, JIM KOLBE, STENY HOYER, ELIOT ENGEL, TAMMY BALDWIN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON—for their leadership on this issue and look forward to working with them to obtain rapid approval of this bill in the House.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RUSSELL COUNTY WARRIORS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Russell County